

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Basicas for the analysis contained in the Office Action dated February 5, 2007. To advance the prosecution of the present application, Claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice to focus examination on Claim 8. Applicant submits that the present amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

Interview Summary:

The undersigned counsel thanks Examiner Basicas for the time and consideration he extended in a telephonic interview conducted March 12, 2007. The interview, in summary, focused on independent Claim 8, in view of the teachings of Rasmussen '038 and Lazare '271. At the conclusion of the interview, applicant agreed to submit the present response for further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Objections:

As noted above, Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Applicant will advance arguments regarding the patentability of Claim 8, as amended.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The objectionable phrase “totally encapsulated by the body” has been removed from Claim 8.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 8 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rasmussen in view of Lazare. In response, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to focus on FIGURE 1 of the present application. Using prior art devices, applicant encountered repeated igniter failures in a high temperature environment. The igniters melt. Applicant overcame the problem with the configuration illustrated in FIGURE 1, which is described in further detail in the specification, especially at page 4, lines 18 and 24, of the present application as filed. Instead of having a separate igniter, an annular ceramic lining of each gas flow passage is kept above the ignition temperature and becomes the igniter. The wording of Claim 8, as amended, follows the wording of the descriptive text and the features illustrated in FIGURE 1.

The Rasmussen reference merely discloses applicant's state of the art prior to solving the problem of repeated igniter failures. The disclosure in Rasmussen alone does not teach or render

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obvious the subject matter of amended Claim 8. It is further submitted that the Lazare reference does not disclose the present invention, whether considered alone or in any combination with Rasmussen. Lazare does not "line" the gas flow passage, nor does gas flow through the igniter of Lazare. Heating elements 3, 4 of Lazare are removed from the central gas duct 7 and are located in a side wall near an outlet end of a nozzle 5 leading to an outlet orifice 8.

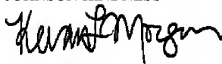
In short, the cited art fails to teach "an annular ceramic igniter body disposed in the housing and lining the at least one combustible gas flow passage such that combustible gas flowing through the gas flow passage is surrounded by the annular ceramic igniter body and flows through the annular ceramic igniter body" and "a heating element embedded in the annular ceramic igniter body, the heating element extending longitudinally through the annular ceramic igniter body in the direction of the flow of gas through the gas flow passage and maintaining the body at a temperature above an ignition temperature of a combustible mixture of combustion air and combustible gases, such that the combustible mixture passing along the at least one combustible gas flow passage is ignited immediately upon coming in contact with the annular ceramic igniter body lining the at least one combustible gas flow passage," as claimed in Claim 8.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests the early issue of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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